

REMARKS

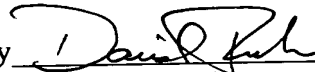
This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/EP99/02238. Support for new claims 23-44 is found in the English-language translation of the specification, in the English-language translation of originally filed claims 1-22, and in the translation of the annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report. Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendments.

A check in the amount of \$507.00 is included with this filing to cover the basic national fee, and the fee for two additional claims over 20 claims. Fees have been reduced by half, reflecting applicant's small entity statement. A small entity statement is filed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees associated with this filing from, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500624.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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